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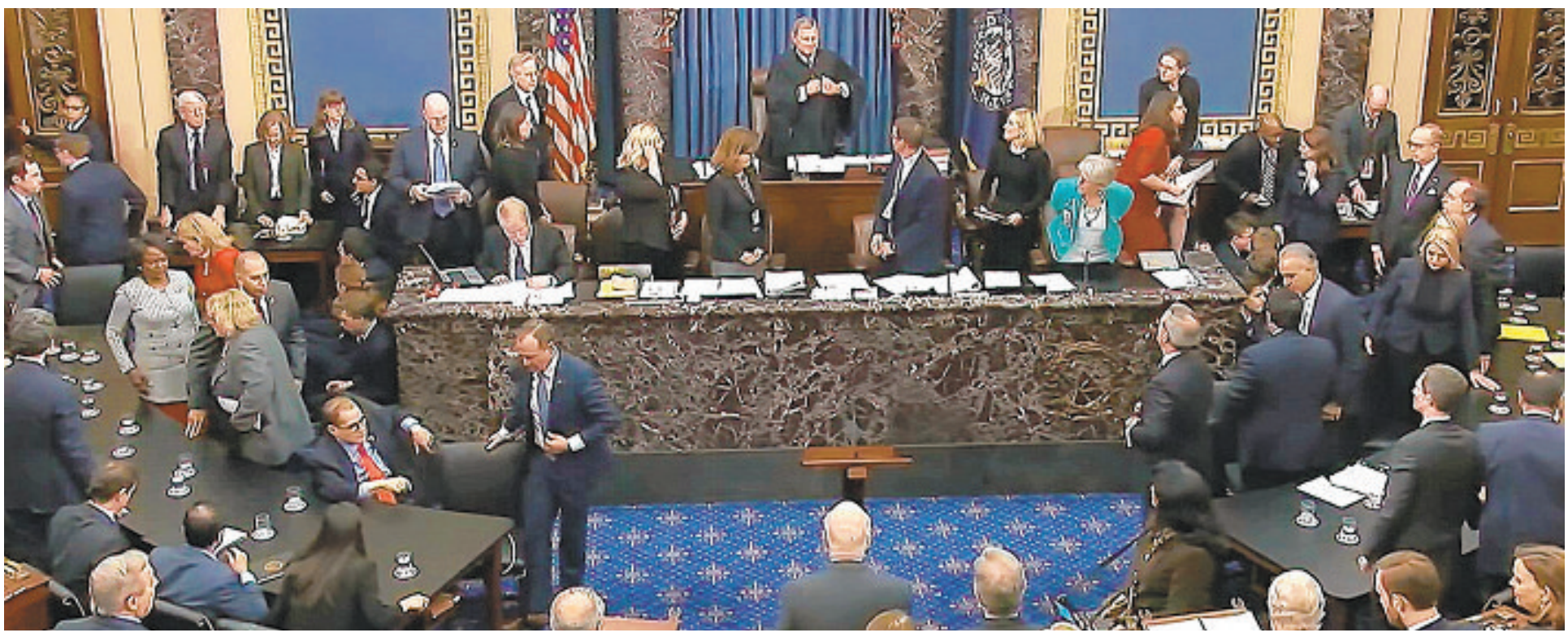
THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

ACQUITTED

Senate jurors vote against articles of impeachment to oust Trump



Senators vote 52-48 in favor of acquittal on abuse of power and 53-47 on obstruction of Congress against President Trump, ending the third presidential trial in U.S. history Wednesday. SENATE TELEVISION

Romney cites 'oath before God' in bucking GOP on abuse charge

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in U.S. history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood at their desks to state their votes for the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Visitors, including the president's allies, watched from the crowded gallery.

Trump

Roberts read the declaration that Trump "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome followed months of impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing the president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump has eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as a political anthem in his reelection bid. The president claims he did

See **TRUMP,** *page 8*

Analysis

Republican senators voted largely in lockstep to acquit President Donald Trump, relying on a multitude of rationales for keeping him in office. For Trump, there was one overriding message to draw from his acquittal: Even at a time of maximum political peril, it's his Republican Party.

NEWS PG 8

IG: Move by Pratt conflict of interest

Comptroller voted to sell city lots to her church

By Talia Richman

Baltimore Comptroller Joan Pratt voted to sell city property to the church where she worships, which the city's inspector general said was a conflict of interest on Pratt's part that stemmed from "administrative oversights" in the comptroller's office.

A Wednesday report from Inspector General Isabel Mercedes Cumming outlines how Pratt voted in 2017 as a member of Baltimore's powerful spending board to approve the sale of 15 city-owned vacant lots to Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where Pratt has long been a member and trustee.

Members of the city's Board of Estimates are supposed to abstain from voting on items in which they have a conflict of interest.

"The investigation revealed the comptroller relies on her staff to identify from which BOE items she should be

See **PRATT,** *page 11*

Hollywood legend Kirk Douglas dies

The silver screen icon, an intense, muscular actor who starred in "Spartacus" and was an independent producer, was 103. **NEWS PG 9**

KENNETH K. LAM/BALTIMORE SUN

Gov. Larry Hogan receives applause Wednesday during his sixth State of the State address to a joint session of the Maryland General Assembly in the State House.

Hogan makes plea for action on crime

During State of the State, declares matter 'urgent crisis'

By Pamela Wood and Luke Broadwater

During his annual State of the State speech on Wednesday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan pressed lawmakers to act on the "out of control crime" that is "destroying Baltimore City."

"People are being shot every single day in Baltimore City," the Republican governor told Maryland's General Assembly in Annapolis. "This is an urgent crisis and we have an obligation to do something about it right now." Baltimore, the state's largest city, has suffered from more than 300 homicides a year for five consecutive years.

Democrats responded by arguing that Hogan is trying to deflect blame for rising violence from himself, noting that crime has gone up during his five years in office and saying that many criminals charged in Baltimore could have been better supervised by state law enforcement agencies.

The issue of Baltimore violence is emerging as a point of contention in the General Assembly session. Hogan, Republican lawmakers and Democratic lawmakers have all proposed bills aimed at either further punishing criminals or preventing crime.

Several of Hogan's proposals are ones that have failed repeatedly in the Democratic-led General Assembly.

See **HOGAN,** *page 11*

ELECTION 2020 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mfume has strategy for House return

Dem candidate, GOP's Klacik eye April 28 election

By Jeff Barker

After an 11-week sprint to a primary victory, Kweisi Mfume allowed himself to pause momentarily Wednesday and imagine how it would feel to return to Congress after stepping down a generation ago.

Klacik

"It's going to be surreal the first day I walk back into the congressional office that I walked out of," said Mfume, 71, who left the House in 1996 to become president of the NAACP.

Mfume

But the Baltimore Democrat quickly added: "I know I've got two elections first."

And he said the upcoming 7th Congressional District elections will require a different strategy than the one he employed in handily winning Tuesday's special primary for nominees to fill the remainder of the late U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings' term.

Mfume captured 43% of the vote, topping a field of 24 Democrats that included a former state Democratic Party

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TODAY'S WEATHER High **54** Low **50**
FORECAST, SPORTS PG 8

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